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**MASS PARKS AMERICORPS GRADUATION CEREMONY
HELD AT DUBUQUE STATE FOREST IN HAWLEY**

HAWLEY—In a ceremony held in Kenneth Dubuque Memorial State Forest today, 22 young people from across the U.S. graduated from the Student Conservation Association's Mass Parks AmeriCorps program.

In 2005, the conservation interns completed over 33,000 hours of community service. Services performed included teaching an environmental education program in western Massachusetts, brushing and maintaining over 100,000 feet of trails, planted trees, rehabilitated trails and maintaining campsites all across the state in state parks, urban parks, municipal parks, land conservancy property and much more.

In the past 8 years, Corps members – with about 163,000 hours of service contributed – completed almost 250 conservation projects on public lands across the Commonwealth.

The program, which is the first environmental AmeriCorps program in Massachusetts, is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Student Conservation Association.

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